



Dr. Michael Green
General Manager
Innovation and Space Branch
Manufacturing Division
Department of Innovation Industry Science and Research



Australian Government
**Department of Innovation
Industry, Science and Research**

Welcome Message

To participants of the 17th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-17)

The Australian Government, through the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research is please to welcome all prospective participants to Melbourne, Australia, for the 17th session of the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum. The conference will be held during 23-26 November 2010, at the Melbourne Crown Conference Centre. The Crown Conference Centre is Australia's newest purpose-built hotel convention facility, offering the latest in convention technologies.

The forum is jointly organised and co-sponsored by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Strategic Headquarters of Space Policy Government of Japan.

The official theme of APRSAF-17 "*The role of space technology and industry in addressing climate change*" has been selected for the purpose of promoting and strengthening the applications of space technology to assist in addressing climate change issues across the Asia Pacific Region. Following on from previous APRSAF sessions, the 17th session will comprise of both working groups and plenary sessions held over the four days of the forum. The APRSAF-17 working groups include: Earth Observation (EO), Space Environment Utilization (SEU), Communication Satellite Applications (CSA), and Space Education and Awareness (SEA).

After the successful development of the 1st Global Navigational Satellite System – GNSS Workshop, I am also pleased to announce that the 2nd GNSS Workshop will be held in conjunction with APRSAF-17. The 2nd GNSS Workshop will also be held at the Crown Conference Centre and will be held on the 22 November 2010. The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research have collaborated closely with JAXA, MEXT and other associated organisations to ensure the successful preparation of this international event.

Again, on behalf of the Australian Government, it's my honour to welcome all participants to Melbourne for APRSAF-17. Australia looks forward to hosting this forum, as we enhance the space activities and opportunities of the Asia Pacific Region.

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